

REMARKS

As stated in the preliminary amendment provided in the application transmittal filed on June 30, 1999, the present application was filed as a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP97/07337 (“the PCT application”). However, Applicants have become aware of the fact that the filing receipt incorrectly identifies the present application as a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of the PCT application. Applicants submit this amendment for clarifying to the Patent Office that the present application was filed as a continuation of PCT application and also to note that the PCT application was published in English on July 9, 1998.

Applicants have filed herewith a petition to the Director and have paid the appropriate fees required to correct the priority claim in the present application. Applicants have also submitted herewith a Supplemental Application Data Sheet and a Request for a Corrected Filing Receipt for correcting the bibliographic priority information for the present application. Applicants further note that the original filing receipt incorrectly listed the title as “VALE PROSTHESIS FOR IMPLANTATION IN BODY CHANNELS.” As shown on the Supplemental Application Data Sheet, the title should be corrected on the Corrected Filing Receipt to state “VALVE PROSTHESIS FOR IMPLANTATION IN BODY CHANNELS.”

In view of the amendments, the remarks provided herein, and the documents filed herewith, Applicants submit that the amendments to the priority claim should be entered and the bibliographic data corrected.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments to the application and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the priority claim be corrected in the manner described above. Applicants are aware that the present application has gone abandoned. However, Applicants request correction of the priority claim in the present application so that the priority claim corresponds to the priority claims of later filed continuing applications that claim priority back to the present application. Applicants' representative telephoned a USPTO attorney in the Petitions Branch who instructed Applicants' representative that the proper way to correct the priority claim in an abandoned application is with an amendment and a petition to the Director. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite the correction of the priority claim.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1225 (Docket No. PVI-5791).

Respectfully submitted,



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